



NEWSLETTER
July 2010

This newsletter is intended to provide a recap of some of the healthy homes and lead-based paint information that we have shared in the IHHN meetings or that has come to us through various Listservs. We want to especially acknowledge the National Center for Healthy Homes and the many content providers on LeadNet and HealthyHomesNet.

NEW FEATURE: NOTES FROM JULY 8TH MEETING OF THE IDAHO HEALTHY HOMES NETWORK
Seventeen people attended in person or by phone.

Brad Harr (Summit Environmental) provided a great overview of indoor air quality issues and standards, providing lots of useful facts (e.g. 8%-12% of the air in the crawl space gets into the home because of the "stack effect". He also noted that HEPA vacuums must be properly maintained and tested to ensure that they are actually working at the levels required by EPA's Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) program. It's about \$100/test!! Or, you can purchase a particle counter for \$2000-3000.

Brad provided much more information and promised to come back next time and cover some indoor air quality case studies...not to be missed!!!

Jerry Royster (HUD) briefed the group on a lead-poisoning case at a housing authority located in the Treasure Valley. It involved a four-year-old girl whose father works making lead fishing sinkers...though they are still trying to identify the source of the lead poisoning. Her blood-lead level was around 30 micrograms per deciliter and the father's was 18 micrograms per deciliter. The family occupies a rental unit that was built after 1978. Tap water was also tested by Southwest District Health, but this was shown not to be the source. Hopefully, there will be more information available at the next IHHN meeting.

Dori Boyle (Medicaid) reported that the blood-lead testing rates for Idaho kids continue to improve. She'll try to have new numbers for us at the next meeting.

Laurie Fay and Russ Clausen (EPA) gave an update on the status of the Renovation and Repair Rule. There is some controversy and lots of things are in flux right now, so EPA refers those with questions to its website (see below).

Renata McLeod reported that the City of Coeur d'Alene hadn't gotten RRP trainers to present there, yet.

Joe Levitch (Levco Builders) explained that he'd contacted the Contractor's Registration Board in an attempt to convince it to better inform contractors about the new RRP rule. He learned that it would take a legislative change to make this happen. Joe is interested in possibly building a coalition to help this along and he'd like to hear from you if you're interested in helping -- joe@levcobuilders.com.

Jerry Royster provided an update on HUD's Sustainable Housing and Communities Initiative (Healthy Homes is a part of this). Jerry is the Regional Sustainability Officer in the Boise Office and he recommended that we all visit www.hud.gov/sustainability for more information.

Jerry also mentioned the National Coalition for Safe and Healthy Homes, recommending that we subscribe to the newsletter at www.nchh.org.

Gary Hanes (IDOC) explained that at the last meeting the group had discussed surveying those on the IHHN mailing list. However, HUD is subject to an Office of Management and Budget requirement that would not allow this idea to proceed. Because HUD maintains and protects the email list others are not able to use it to perform the survey.

The next meeting of the IHHN will be in October. Jerry will be sending you a notice with agenda items and call-in information. If you have suggestions for agenda items, please email jerry.royster@hud.gov with your ideas! Thanks!

SAVE THE DATE

Tri-Regional Lead Conference

Regions 8, 9, and 10

Denver, Colorado • September 21 – 23, 2010

EPA Region 8 Conference Center

1595 Wynkoop Street

For more information, contact Virginia Till at: Till.Virginia@epamail.epa.gov



EPA AGREES TO DELAY LEAD PAINT RULE FOR CONTRACTORS

<http://www.mpbn.net/News/MPBNNews/tabid/1159/ctl/ViewItem/mid/3799/ItemId/12640/Default.aspx>

EPA DECISION PROMPTS LOTS OF QUESTIONS

271 answers available

http://toxics.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/toxics.cfg/php/enduser/std_alp.php?p_sid=duhnMP3k

EPA CITES COMPANY FOR FAILING TO WARN RESIDENTS OF LEAD-BASED PAINT

<http://ohsonline.com/articles/2010/06/20/epa-cites-company-784380-for-failing-to-warn-residents-of-lead-based-paint-exposures.aspx>

LEAD POISONING TIPS HANDOUT

Lead Poisoning Tips handout has been posted on NCHH's Resources page. The handout is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Creole](#), and [Arabic](#).



WHERE LEAD HIDES

<http://warren-wilson.edu/~lpp/Where%20Lead%20Hides%20IN%20PROGRESS%209%2009.pdf>

NON-LEAD FISHING TACKLE

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/living-green/living-green-citizen/household-hazardous-waste/nontoxic-tackle-let-s-get-the-lead-out.html>

DRINK FROM A GARDEN HOSE?

<http://tinyurl.com/3xocqbw>

CONTAMINATED HERBAL MEDICINE PRODUCTS—NYC DEPT OF HEALTH

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/lead/lead-herbalmed.shtml>



CSPC RECALLS MORE TRINKETS—CADMIUM

The Feds say parents should immediately throw away the approximately 66,200 "Children's Happy Charm Bracelets" bracelets and 2,200 football rings that were distributed for free to children at some doctor and dentist offices over the past five years

<http://www.time.com/time/business/article/0,8599,2000853,00.html>



AMERICA'S ASBESTOS

Although asbestos use in the U.S. plummeted from a peak of 803,000 metric tons in 1973 to just 1,460 metric tons in 2008, the nation's epidemic is far from over. Center for Public Integrity

<http://www.publicintegrity.org/investigations/asbestos/articles/entry/2184/>

MYSTERY UNRAVELED: HOW ASBESTOS CAUSES CANCER

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/06/100629094153.htm>

RADON IS INVISIBLE. DEADLY.

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/health/Radon%20invisible%20deadly/3204991/story.html>

SECONDHAND SMOKE LINKED TO MENTAL DISTRESS

As exposure to cigarette fumes increases among nonsmokers, so does their risk of developing serious psychological distress and of being hospitalized for mental ailments, a new study finds. Science News

[http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/60039/title/Secondhand smoke linked to mental distress](http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/60039/title/Secondhand_smoke_linked_to_mental_distress)

OBESITY A CHEMICAL REACTION?

Studies are showing increasing evidence there may be a link between certain chemicals and obesity. A new study found overweight young girls had significantly higher levels of phthalates than the general population of children. Phthalates are found in plastics and can be hormone disruptors.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/health/sns-health-weight-loss-chemicals,0,698447.story>

FORMALDEHYDE CAUSES CANCER, EPA DECLARES

The EPA has concluded that formaldehyde is carcinogenic when inhaled by humans, a finding that could lead to stringent new regulations of the widely used chemical.

<http://www.nola.com/news/t-p/capital/index.ssf?/base/news-8/1275546699250110.xml&coll=1>

CHILDREN'S BLOOD CONTAINS HIGH LEVELS OF PBDE FIRE RETARDANTS

New research shows that children bear high burdens of polybrominated diphenyl ether flame retardants in their bodies. In the first study to compare children's uptake with that of their mothers, researchers found that children's PBDE levels are around 2.8 times higher. Chemical & Engineering News

<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/news/88/i26/8826news1.html>

HEALTH RISKS FOR CHILDREN LIVING NEAR MAIN ROADS

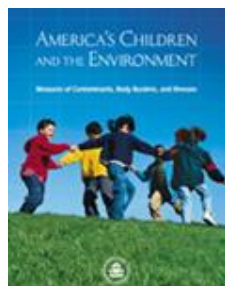
<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/health-risks-for-those-living-within-500m-of-main-roads-20100619-yo2h.html>

UTAH STUDY POINTS TO ARSENIC IN CHICKENS

The use of roxarsone and other arsenic-based additives in poultry and swine feed is at the center of a national controversy. <http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/home/49868991-75/arsenic-eggs-feed-levels.html.csp>

LIFESAVING DRUGS MAY BE KILLING HEALTH WORKERS

Nurses, pharmacists and others who handle chemo drugs have been getting sick. Despite multiple studies that indicate the drugs actually may cause cancers, the federal government doesn't require safeguards on the job. http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2012327665_chemo11.html



SWIMMING POOL CHEMISTRY...NOT PRETTY

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=128410569>

ADULT AND CHILDHOOD OBESITY RATES—MAP

<http://healthyamericans.org/reports/obesity2010/>

AMERICA'S CHILDREN AND THE ENVIRONMENT

<http://www.epa.gov/envirohealth/children/>

OTHER LINKS:

Idaho Healthy Homes Network - <http://www.hud.gov/local/id/library/healthyhomes/IHHN.cfm>

Subscribe the Healthy Homes Network Listserv-

http://www.hud.gov/subscribe/signup.cfm?listname=Idaho%20Healthy%20Homes%20Network&list=ID_AHO-HH-NETWORK-L

HUD's Office of Health Homes and Lead Hazard Control - <http://www.hud.gov/offices/lead/>

EPA – www.epa.gov/lead

OSHA – www.osha.gov

National Center for Healthy Housing - <http://www.nchh.org/Home.aspx>

Alliance for Healthy Homes - www.afhh.org

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission; Product Recalls -

<http://cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prerel.html>

LeadNet – international listserv on lead and lead poisoning; to subscribe - Leadnet-on@mail-list.com

To search LeadNet Archives - <http://archive.mail-list.com/leadnet>

User Name = leadnet

Password = lswp (The User Name and Password are case-sensitive.)

For parents of a lead-poisoned child: www.alphalead.org

Tamara Rubin's (Portland, OR) website: <http://www.mychildrenhaveleadpoisoning.com>